

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECHOING HOPE RANCH'S COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

Hereford, January 18, 2016 -- Echoing Hope Ranch (EHR), a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, is proud to offer a Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) program. A CSA is an alternative farming model that has been gaining popularity in the USA for the past 20 years. There are many farm-specific methods and models used across the country, but a relationship of trust and mutual benefit between grower and consumer is typically the foundation.

In general, members of a CSA purchase a share in advance of the growing season, which helps the grower cover the initial annual costs of the farm operation. In return, members receive boxes of the farm's produce or products throughout the growing season, as well as satisfaction gained from reconnecting to the land and being more knowledgeable of local food production. Whereas both farmer and consumer take on some inherent risks, such as crop failure, the below advantages usually outweigh any risks.

Consumers have access to ultra-fresh food and creative recipes, exposure to farming and the land where the produce was grown, education for families, and the ability to develop a relationship with the farmer. Farmers have marketing opportunities prior to the actual farming season, the ability to develop a relationship with patrons, and early payments to help with the farm's cash flow. When you purchase a membership 'share' of EHR's CSA program, you are partnering with Echoing Hope Ranch. This partnership is more than just fresh, wholesome, local produce; it is joint support of our greater mission - to serve adults with autism and other developmental disabilities.

While there are CSAs all over the United States, Echoing Hope's CSA is special because it provides employment opportunities to people with disabilities. The program currently employs ten individuals with disabilities and five non-disabled individuals in the community. The individuals with disabilities not only learn valuable job skills but they are a true part of an exceptional team bringing fresh produce to the community in a unique manner.

To become a member (shareholder), you can purchase a share in one of our four seasons:

- Spring Harvest (March 2th – April 27th)
- 1st Summer Harvest (May 4th – June 27th)
- 2nd Summer Harvest (July 6 – August 31st)
- Fall Harvest (September 7th – November 2nd)

Each week members receive a basket of produce ranging from lettuce, root vegetables, tomatoes, onions, beans, garlic, broccoli and much more.

Echoing Hope has received several grants and is extremely thankful to the granting organizations for helping make this program possible. Granting agencies include the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona, the Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona, Cenpatco, and the Arizona Community Foundation of Cochise. Southwest Gas has also graciously volunteered time and materials to help build the raised beds in one of the hoop houses. Without support from the community, this program would not have been possible.

If you would like to purchase a share or would like more information about Echoing Hope Ranch and the Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) Program, please visit their website at www.echoinghoperanch.org. Interested parties are also encouraged to come to contact Marla Guerrero at 520-508-2087 or info@echoinghoperanch.org.

The mission of Echoing Hope Ranch is Growth, discovery and lifelong learning in safe and respectful homes and communities. The organization is dedicated to helping individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities learn life skills, providing social opportunities and community. Please visit www.echoinghoperanch.org or call 520-508-2087 for further information.